PATENT Ser. No. 09/665,899 Atty. Docket No. 10517/74

> # 1/B 2.25.20

<u>IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</u>

pplicants

Mayasoshi IWASE, et al.

Serial No.

09/665,899

Filing Date

September 20, 2000

Title

FUEL CELL AND SEPARATOR FOR SAME

Group Art Unit:

1745

Examiner

J. MERCADO

RECEIVED

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

TC 1700

JUL 2 3 2002

AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 23, 2002, the Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Once amended) A fivel cell comprising:
- a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;
 - a separator which holds the joint body;
 - a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;
- a rib portion which divides an area where the projections project into a plurality of regions and forms a passage for fluid which flow through the separator, wherein the plurality of regions communicate with each other, and
- a gas supply inlet which connects the fluid passage and supplies a gas to the fluid passage therethrough, wherein the gas supply inlet is located so that a gas flow between the gas supply inlet and the fluid passage is parallel to a gas flow in the fluid passage.

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4. (Once amended) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein a direction of the gas flow in the fluid passage in at least one of the plurality of regions differs from a direction of

the gas flow in a second one of the plurality of regions.

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The Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are required in connection with this submission. Nonetheless, the Applicants authorize payment of any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit of any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 22, 2002

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